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### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Recognizes DMME Abandoned Mine Land Program Manager for Public Service**

**Big Stone Gap, VA-** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently recognized Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Services Manager Roger Williams for his collaborative efforts with the North Fork Powell River Ecosystem Restoration Project. Lieutenant Colonel Steve Gay, District Engineer, Nashville District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, presented Roger Williams with the prestigious Commander's Award for Public Service on August 22, 2002, in a ceremony at the DMME office in Big Stone Gap.

The Corps of Engineers, DMME, Lee County, and the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission have partnered to accomplish the North Fork Powell River Ecosystem Restoration Project. This partnership endeavors to abate occurrences of acid mine drainage which arise from abandoned coal mine lands in the North Fork Powell River watershed. Acid mine drainage can severely impact stream ecosystems and poses a serious threat to endangered and threatened species that live in the Powell River.

Williams has worked thirty years for Virginia's reclamation programs. For the past twenty-two years, he has served as manager for DMME's Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Services Section. Under his leadership, Virginia's AML Program has become widely recognized as one of the nation's best reclamation programs.

In accepting the award, Williams credited his staff and DMME management for their work on the project. "I would like to thank Lieutenant Colonel Gay and the Army Corps of Engineers for this

special award. Without the hard work and dedication of DMME's management and staff, the Commander's Award would not have been possible," said Williams.

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